(b) and (c) India has achieved a compound rate of growth of about 12.5 per cent in foreign toprist traffic to the country since 1951 excluding the nationals of Pakistan and Bangladesh. Tourism has been recognised as an important economic activity and given the recognition of an Industry only recently in India. Plan allocation for the development of this sector has also been relatively negligible over successive Plan periods.

(d) Tourism promotion is a continuous process and all changes that are taking place in the pattern of tourism are kept in view while planning for tourism development in the country. A number of schemes are also being taken up for infrastructural development and marketing including development of beach resorts, improvement facilities for sking, mountaineering, trekking and adventure tourism, augmentation of transport facilities, provision of way-side facilities on highways, development of tourist facilities along travel circuit vigorous publicity campaigns with emphasis on consumer advertising, stepping up of public relations with overseas media agencies, etc. In addition a number of incentives have been announced for attracting private investment in tourism related actvities.

Introduction of New Trains

2315. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new eight trains have been introduced since 1st November, 1988; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 975/976 Bangalore-Guwahati Weekly Express, 879/980 Tirupati-Howrah Express daily, 593/954 Nanded-Manmad Express daily, 21/22 Howrah-Bhubaneswar Express daily, 485/486 Karjat-Khopoli Passenger daily, 363/364 Palway-New Delhi Shuttle daily, 455/456 Kakinada-Visakhapatnam Passenger daily, 355/356 Secunderabad- Miryalaguda Passenger daily.

High Power Committee to Monitor Implementation of the recommendations of Tourism

2316. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high power committee has been set up by Government to monitor the problems in implementation of recommendation of the various committees on Tourism; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) A Committee for monitoring the progress of implementation of various recommendations of the National Committee on Tourism has been set up by the Government on 28th September, 1988 with the following composition:

1. Shri Mohammad Yunus--Chairman
2. Shri S. K. Misra Member
3. Shri G. K. Khanna Member
4. Shri Cyrus Guzder Member
5. Shri P. M. A. Hakeem Member

Reopening of Chinese consulates General Offices at Calcutta

2317. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has sought for permission from India recently to reopen its Consulates General Office at Calcutta;